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Remark

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. Claims 9 and 31-35 have been cancelled. Claims 45-49 are New. Therefore, claims 1-8, 10-30 and 36-49 are present for examination.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection*Shimano*

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 8-12 and 31-35 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) as being anticipated by Shimano, U.S. Patent No. 6,829,140 ("Shimano"). Shimano shows a cover unit 152 in the embodiment of Figures 7-9 upon which the display may rest. Shimano further shows a latching assembly 60 in the embodiment of Figures 6(a) to 6(e).

Claim 1 is amended to recite "wherein the base flap is removably attached to the display housing using a latch." This removability provides a great advantage in the tablet configuration as shown in Figure 16, making the tablet computer lighter and less cumbersome.

In Shimano, there is no suggestion that the cover unit may be removed from the display housing. At column 11, lines 5-10, Shimano states that a latching assembly 60... may also be included in embodiments of the invention of the type shown in FIGS. 7-9 to maintain the portable computer in a closed configuration, a tablet configuration, or both." This is exactly the same purpose described for the latching assembly of Figures 6(a) to 6(e) at column 8, lines 45 et seq. In other words, the latching assembly is used to hold the display to the base on the end opposite the hinge or cover unit. There is no

JUL 05 2006

suggestion that the cover unit be removable using the latching assembly 60 or any other approach.

For the reasons stated above, among others, Claim 1, as amended, is believed to be allowable. Claim 18 and new Claim 45 refer to a removably attached base flap or base and are believed to be allowable on the grounds provided above, among others. Claim 31 is cancelled. Claims 2-17, 19-30, and 46-49 are dependent and believed to be allowable on the same grounds, among others.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

Shimano in view of Rezek or Rosenberg

The Examiner has rejected claims 3-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over ("Shimano") in view of Rezek, U.S. Patent No. 5,321,420, ("Rezek") or Rosenberg, U.S. Patent No. 6,429,846, ("Rosenberg"). These references were not cited for, nor do they show the removable latches discussed above. Accordingly, these rejections are, respectfully, traversed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 36-44 are allowed. These claims remain in the application.

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Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome by the amendment and remark, and that the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

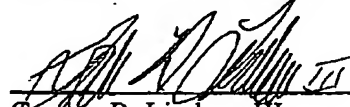
Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

Charge our Deposit Account.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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Gordon R. Lindeen III
Reg. No. 33,192

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
7th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1030
(303) 740-1980

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